

Message Text

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ACTION AF-04

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 HA-02 INR-05 CIAE-00 NSAE-00

NSC-05 SP-02 PA-01 CA-01 /035 W

-----090521 070345Z /23

P 061356Z JUN 78

FM AMEMBASSY GABORONE

TO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN PRIORITY

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 2407

AMEMBASSY MASERU

AMEMBSSY MBABANE

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

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LIMDIS

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOCI, OTRA, BC, WZ, LT

SUBJECT: REPORTED DISCRIMINATION AGAINST PCVS

REF: CAPE TOWN 1094

1. WE HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO SUBSTANTIATE SOUTH AFRICAN PRESS STORIES ALLEGING THAT A BLACK PCV WAS DENIED TREATMENT AT JOHANNESBURG HOSPITAL. PCMO FITZGERALD HAS NO RECOLLECTION OF THIS ALLEGED INCIDENT AND HIS PREDECESSOR ALSO LEFT NO RECORD OF SUCH AN INCIDENT.

2. ACCORDING TO FITZGERALD THE FOLLOWING INCIDENTS ARE THE ONLY KNOWN INCIDENTS INVOLVING DISCRIMINATION AGAINST BLACK PCVS:

A. A BLACK PCV ON HOLIDAY REPEAT ON HOLIDAY IN SOUTH AFRICA WAS REPORTEDLY HAULED OFF BUS IN MAFEKING AND HARASSED DURING SOUTH
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AFRICAN POLICE SEARCH BUT WAS RELEASED AFTER THE SEARCH. INCIDENT REPORTEDLY TOOK PLACE IN 1977 AND WAS NOT CONNECTED IN ANY WAY WITH RSA MEDICAL SERVICES. TO OUR KNOWLEDGE, VOLUNTEER INVOLVED NEVER CONTACTED EMBASSY TO REPORT BEHAVIOR OF SOUTH AFRICAN POLICE OR TO REQUEST THAT PROTEST BE LODGED.

B. WIFE OF SWAZILAND PCD HARRISON UNDERWENT OPER-

ATION IN SOUTH AFRICA AND IS STILL RECEIVING MEDICAL TREATMENT THERE. ACCORDING TO PCMO FITZGERALD, SHE RECEIVED APPROPRIATE MEDICAL TREATMENT OF HIGH QUALITY BUT WAS DISSATISFIED ON OCCASION WITH ATTITUDE OF HOSPITAL STAFF. SPECIFICALLY, SHE ONCE REPORTED THAT NURSING STAFF DID NOT "ANSWER HER BELL QUICKLY ENOUGH" WHEN SHE REQUESTED ASSISTANCE.

C. FITZGERALD TOLD US THAT ONLY OTHER COMPLAINT CONCERNING RSA MEDICAL CARE WAS RECEIVED FROM BLACK PCV WHO UNDERWENT BIOPSY IN JOHANNESBURG. ACCORDING TO FITZGERALD, STANDARD OF MEDICAL CARE RECEIVED WAS HIGH, BUT PCV FELT "UNCOMFORTABLE" BECAUSE OF PERVASIVE ATMOSPHERE OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION.

3. EMBASSY FULLY AGREES WITH POLICY OF PROTESTING TO SAG ANY INCIDENTS OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION AGAINST AMERICANS, INCLUDING PCVS TRAVELLING FOR WHATEVER REASON IN RSA. WE WILL CONTINUE TO REPORT SUCH INCIDENTS WHENEVER THEY OCCUR. HOWEVER, PCMO FITZGERALD IS NOW APPREHENSIVE THAT SOUTH AFRICAN AUTHORITIES MIGHT TURN TABLES ON US BY REFUSING ENTRY TO RSA OR ADMITTANCE TO HOSPITAL TO SERIOUSLY ILL PCV IN RETALIATION FOR PC POLICY OF AVOIDING MEDICAL TRAVEL TO RSA. WE HAVE TOLD FITZGERALD THAT SAG IS UNLIKELY TO RESORT TO THAT TYPE OF RETALIATION BUT WOULD APPRECIATE VIEWS PRETORIA OR CAPE TOWN ON THIS QUESTION.

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NORLAND

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NNN

Message Attributes

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